

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9214
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3163

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: NKOMO SAYS ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE IS DEAD

1. AT SEPTEMBER 11 PRESS CONFERENCE, CALLED IN RESPONSE TO SMITH'S SPEECH OF SEPTEMBER 10, ZAPU PRESIDENT JOSHUA NKOMO IN PREPARED STATEMENT SAID THAT AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE IS "DEAD AND BURIED." "THERE CAN BE NO POSSIBILITY OF ENDING THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM BY ANY CONFERENCE. THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS MUST ACCEPT THIS." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION HE SAID, AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, YOU COULD FORGET AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE. SMITH'S MOVE TO MARTIAL LAW AND THE KILLINGS THAT THIS IMPLIES LEAVES NO ROOM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. ASKED IF THIS WAS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S VIEW, NKOMO SAID THAT HE SPOKE FOR ZAPU.

2. NKOMO REJECTED THE IDEA OF AGAIN MEETING WITH SMITH UNLESS SMITH MEANT TO SURRENDER. AT AUGUST 14 MEETING THE ESSENCE OF
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THE MEETING WAS THAT SMITH WANTED TO SURRENDER POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. SMITH HAD ADMITTED THAT HE WAS FINISHED POLITICALLY. HE WAS FINISHED PHYSICALLY AS WELL. HIS REGIME IS IN TATTERS BECAUSE HE CANNOT CONTAIN THE SITUATION MILITARILY. SMITH HAD INVITED HIMSELF TO LUSAKA; HE HAD NOT BEEN INVITED BY KAUNDA.

3. NKOMO JUSTIFIED THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE RHODESIAN VISCOUNT SINCE THESE PLANES CARRY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. HE DENIED THAT HIS FORCES HAD KILLED SURVIVORS. HE CONTRASTED THE UPROAR IN THE WESTERN PRESS OVER THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE VISCOUNT WITH ITS SILENCE IN FACE OF DAILY KILLING OF BLACK AFRICANS BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES.

4. NKOMO THEN ADVISED ONE AND ALL NOT TO FLY AIR RHODESIA. ONE SHOULD KEEP CLEAR OF THESE PLANES BECAUSE ZAPU WILL NOT KNOW WHEN THEY ARE CARRYING MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.

5. NKOMO ALSO SAID THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF EVEN CONTEMPLATING WORKING WITH CHIRAU, SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA SINCE THEY HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE MASSACRE OF THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE. CLINGERMAN

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